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National Center for Infectious Diseases

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

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- ⊕ This term is defined in the glossary.

Home

This web site offers information about chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and its diagnosis and treatment. In general, in order to receive a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome, a patient must satisfy two criteria:

1. Have severe chronic fatigue of six months or longer duration with other known medical conditions excluded by clinical diagnosis, and
2. Concurrently have four or more of the following symptoms: substantial impairment in short-term memory or concentration, sore throat, tender lymph nodes, muscle pain, multi-joint pain without swelling or redness, headaches of a new type, pattern or severity, unrefreshing sleep, and post-exertional malaise ⊕ lasting more than 24 hours.

Hot Topics

December 2003
[Twelve new publications on CFS](#)

March 2003
[Report on CDC's CFS program activities, 2002-2003](#)

February 23-26, 2003
[Report of a meeting on mechanisms of unexplained fatigue](#)

February 2003
[Receive continuing education credits for CFS study course](#)

The symptoms must have persisted or recurred during six or more consecutive months of illness and must not have predated the fatigue.

CFS Information

This section will provide you with demographic information such as how common CFS is, who is most susceptible, whether it is contagious, and possible causes. Questions about diagnosis, treatments, resources, or rumors should be discussed with your physician or other health care professional.

Treatment

As a service to you, this section provides basic information about therapies that have been used for the treatment of CFS patients.

Continuing Education

This section describes a new Web-based, self-study course designed to increase health providers' awareness and understanding of chronic fatigue syndrome. Continuing education credits are available for health providers who complete the course.

Support Groups

The section "How to select a support group" briefly outlines what to look for, and what to watch out for, when deciding on a support group.

CFS Defined

The core of the revised case definition is a set of uniformly applicable guidelines for the clinical and research evaluation of CFS and the other

forms of fatigue.

Meetings and Workshops

This section provides descriptions of various CDC or HHS meetings and workshops about CFS.

Program Updates

This section provides detailed updates of the activities of CDC's CFS Research Program, including archived reports.

Publications

Summaries of all peer-reviewed publications by the CDC CFS are available in this section.

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